

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 171015
ORIGIN NEA-10

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P 212323Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 171015

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM CHAPMAN AND KUX

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (NARAIN, RAJ)

SUBJECT: VISIT BY HEALTH MINISTER

REF: NEW DELHI 10326

1. WE FULLY AGREE THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF RAJ NARAIN
DECIDES TO COME TO THE U.S. TO EXPOSE HIM TO OUR THINKING
ON HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS, FAMILY PLANNING AND RELATED
MATTERS.

2. HOWEVER WE HAVE SERIOUS RESERVATIONS REGARDING
OFFICIALLY INVITING HIM AND FUNDING HIS TRIP. SUCH AN INVI-
TATION WOULD INEVITABLY LEAD TO EXPECTATIONS OF AN "OFFI-
CIAL VISIT", WITH ALL THE ATTENDANT CEREMONIALS, WHICH WE
COULD NOT EASILY FULFILL. FURTHERMORE, WHILE WE CAN GIVE
AN IV TO A MINISTER, IT HAS BEEN A LONGSTANDING PRACTICE
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THAT WE NOT DO SO IN THE CASE OF INDIA. SPECIFICALLY, WE
HAVE NOT INVITED CONGRESS MINISTERS AND WONDER WHETHER IN-
VITING NEW CABINET MINISTER MIGHT NOT BE VIEWED AS POLITI-
CALLY MOTIVATED. WE ALSO FEAR THAT WE WOULD FIND OURSELVES
BESET WITH SIMILAR FEELERS FOR IV GRANTS FROM OTHER INDIAN
CABINET MINISTERS AND BECAUSE OF THE PRECEDENT SET FOR RAJ
NARAIN WILL BE UNABLE TO REFUSE THESE GRACEFULLY.

3. THUS, OUR PREFERENCE WOULD BE NOT TO OFFICIALLY INVITE
NARAIN HERE, BUT TO TELL HIM HE WOULD BE MOST WELCOME TO
COME IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY IN LATE AUGUST. WE WOULD,
OF COURSE, ASSIST THE INDIAN EMBASSY IN EVERY WAY IN
ARRANGING A GOOD PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM WHILE HE IS HERE.
WE ARE CHECKING WITH HEW TO ASCERTAIN WHAT ARRANGEMENTS
MIGHT BE MADE. ' VANCE

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